

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION,

Washington, DC, December 5, 2007.

Hon. HENRY WAXMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write to confirm our mutual understanding with respect to your claim of jurisdiction regarding H.R. 3690, the U.S. Capitol Police and Library of Congress Police Implementation Act of 2007. As you know, the Committee on House Administration reported H.R. 3690 to the House on December 4, 2007.

Given the importance of moving this legislation forward promptly, I appreciate your decision not to pursue your claim of jurisdiction at this time and your willingness to allow it to move forward today. Furthermore, I agree that this action in no way diminishes or alters the jurisdictional interest of our respective committees with regard to future legislation.

Sincerely,

ROBERT A. BRADY,
Chairman.

I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. SOLIS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRADY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3690, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REAPPOINTMENT OF PATRICIA Q. STONESIFER AS A CITIZEN REGENT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate joint resolution (S.J. Res. 8) providing for the reappointment of Patricia Q. Stonesifer as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate joint resolution.

The text of the Senate joint resolution is as follows:

S.J. RES. 8

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in accordance with section 5581 of the Revised Statutes (20 U.S.C. 43), the vacancy on the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, in the class other than Members of Congress, occurring because of the expiration of the term of Patricia Q. Stonesifer of Washington, is filled by the reappointment of Patricia Q. Stonesifer, for a term of 6 years, effective December 22, 2007.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRADY) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on this joint resolution and to include extraneous matter.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

This joint resolution would reappoint Patricia Stonesifer to a new 6-year term as a citizen regent of the Smithsonian Institution. Her current term will expire December 22. Ms. Stonesifer is the chief executive officer of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, a renowned philanthropic institution based in Seattle, Washington. She was previously a senior vice president at Microsoft.

On the Smithsonian Board of Regents, Stonesifer is currently Chair of the Executive Committee, the institution's most important internal panel which acts on behalf of the board between its meetings. She also chairs the Compensation and Human Resources Committee.

Ms. Stonesifer previously chaired the Governance Committee which guided the board's most significant action this year, preparing its comprehensive report last June responding to the broad range of issues emerging from the resignation of former Secretary Lawrence Small. Proper implementation of this report will be critical to the effective reform and modernization of the Smithsonian.

The House Administration Committee, as the House panel with exclusive jurisdiction over Smithsonian governance matters, will exercise vigorous oversight to ensure that the board approves additional significant changes.

As the Smithsonian Board of Regents undertakes the urgent task of reinventing itself as a full-time management and policymaking body, Ms. Stonesifer's expertise and willingness to communicate with Congress will continue to be a valuable asset. Members of the House Administration Committee held a briefing with her 3 weeks ago, were impressed by her continued commitment to the task ahead, and agreed to move this joint resolution expeditiously. I want to thank the ranking member again, Mr. EHLERS, for his active participation and cooperation in these actions.

Madam Speaker, I urge the passage of the joint resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, as the ranking member of the House Administration Committee, I'm pleased to support the reappointment of Patty Stonesifer as a citizen regent of the Smithsonian Institution.

Six years ago I stood at this very microphone in a slightly different role as a member of the majority recom-

mending Ms. Stonesifer for her initial appointment. I was very impressed with her qualifications at that time. She has not disappointed us. She has done very well.

In her role as chief executive officer of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Ms. Stonesifer leads the foundation in their mission to help all peoples of the world lead healthy, productive lives. At the end of last year, under the leadership of Ms. Stonesifer, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation had an endowment of approximately \$33 billion, and remains one of the largest charitable foundations in the world.

In developing countries, the foundation focuses on improving people's health and giving them the chance to lift themselves out of hunger and extreme poverty. In the United States, it seeks to ensure that all people, especially those with the fewest resources, have access to the opportunities they need to succeed in school and life. For all three of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation program groups, Patty Stonesifer sets strategic priorities, monitors results and facilitates relationships with key partners.

Before helping Bill and Melinda Gates launch the Gates Learning Foundation in 1997, Ms. Stonesifer was a senior vice president at Microsoft, where she was responsible for an \$800 million business activity focused on interactive entertainment, news, information and service products. She is active in a number of other charitable endeavors, and has served as a member of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on AIDS.

As Chair of the Smithsonian's Governance Committee, Ms. Stonesifer led the board's efforts to implement best practices in the nonprofit sector, and helped develop and implement the recommendations from the independent review committee designed to strengthen the board's oversight of the institution and reform its operations. In June, the board formally adopted the Governance Committee's 25 recommendations, and they are on target for completion by early 2008.

She has performed incredibly well in all of these areas, and the problems that we have had at the Smithsonian are well underway to conclusion simply due to the work of Ms. Stonesifer. The reforms include a reexamination of compensation, compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, and restructuring senior management to create a stronger reporting relationship with the board. Once implemented, these strengthened government practices will be an important step towards restoring faith in the Smithsonian and its management structure, and they demonstrate the positive impact of Ms. Stonesifer's leadership in this area.

After meeting once again with Ms. Stonesifer, I'm confident that her unique blend of business and philanthropic experience will continue to be a most valuable factor on the board

that is charged with overseeing the Nation's attic, our fond description for the Smithsonian.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting a very capable person, Patty Stonesifer, for reappointment to the Smithsonian's Board of Regents.

Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRADY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate joint resolution, S.J. Res. 8.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate joint resolution was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF THE FOUNDING OF THE PORT OF LOS ANGELES

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 822) recognizing the 100th anniversary year of the founding of the Port of Los Angeles, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 822

Whereas on December 9, 1907, the Los Angeles City Council approved City Ordinance No. 15621, creating the Board of Harbor Commissioners and officially founding the Port of Los Angeles;

Whereas the Port of Los Angeles's earliest history was recorded by Portuguese explorer Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo who named this natural harbor "Bahia de los Fumos" or "Bay of Smokes" on October 8, 1542, when he noted that the bay "is an excellent harbor and the country is good with many plains and groves of trees";

Whereas in the 1850s, a spirited entrepreneur named Phineas Banning began the first of a lifetime of ventures that would eventually earn him distinction as the "Father of Los Angeles Harbor" by leading the evolution of the harbor from a trading center for fur and hides to a hub for more diverse commerce, largely through a freight and passenger transportation business that grew into a shipping firm with 15 stagecoaches and 50 wagons serving five western States;

Whereas the Los Angeles and San Pedro Railroad began service between San Pedro Bay and Los Angeles in 1869 as a 21-mile stretch of track comprising the first railroad in Southern California and marking the beginning of a new era of development for the harbor region;

Whereas proposals for new ports in present-day Santa Monica, Marina del Rey, and Redondo Beach began surfacing in the late 1800s until 1897, when a five-man board of engineers, chaired by Rear Admiral John C. Walker, settled the great free-harbor fight by recommending continued port development in San Pedro Bay, resulting in additional improvements to the harbor including

the first 8,500-foot section of the Federal breakwater that was completed in 1911, widening and dredging of the Main Channel to accommodate the largest vessels of that era, and completion by the Southern Pacific Railroad of its first major wharf in San Pedro, allowing railcars to efficiently load and unload goods simultaneously;

Whereas the Port was involved in World War II on a massive scale, with every vessel building operation assisting in the construction, conversion, and repair of vessels for the war effort, and shipbuilding quickly became the Port of Los Angeles's prime economic activity, with California Shipbuilding Corp., Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corp., Consolidated Steel Corp., Todd Shipyards, and other enterprises collectively employing more than 90,000 workers;

Whereas in August 1958, the HAWAIIAN MERCHANT delivered its first shipment of 20 cargo containers to the Port of Los Angeles, marking the beginning of the containerized cargo revolution in California;

Whereas the Port was a principal partner of the \$2,500,000,000 Alameda Corridor project which opened in April 2002 as a 20-mile rail expressway that reliably and efficiently connects the Port to America's transcontinental rail system, a project which epitomizes the Port's involvement in developing robust regional transportation infrastructure solutions by working in partnership with local, regional, and statewide agencies to improve goods movement systems;

Whereas the Port's 2004 completion of the nearly 500-acre Pier 400 container complex as the largest single-user container terminal in the world has been acclaimed as an engineering marvel and model of operational efficiency;

Whereas the Port of Los Angeles has long recognized its responsibility for infrastructure and operational improvements that are supportive of sustainable growth compatible with environmental stewardship, the most recent example being a historic November 2006 action by the Boards of Harbor Commissioners of Los Angeles and Long Beach in approving an aggressive plan to reduce air pollution by nearly 50 percent in 5 years, making the San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan the world's first program addressing all port-related emission sources to significantly reduce health risks posed by regional air pollution from port-related operations;

Whereas the Port of Los Angeles is located in San Pedro Bay, California, and is part of the Southern California port complex which handles more than 43 percent of all goods arriving in the United States, impacting over 1,000,000 jobs nationwide;

Whereas as a premier international gateway, the Port of Los Angeles is the leading container handling port in the United States, with more than 8,500,000 TEU's (twenty-foot equivalent units) recorded in 2006, thus retaining its stature as the leading United States containerport for the seventh consecutive year;

Whereas the Port of Los Angeles as part of the San Pedro Bay Port Complex has grown 246 percent over the past 11 years, tripling its trade-related jobs, generating \$256,000,000,000 in commerce, and producing \$28,000,000,000 in tax revenue, and is expected to triple again the amount of cargo handled by 2030;

Whereas in 2007, under the leadership of Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, President S. David Freeman and the Board of Harbor Commissioners, and Executive Director Geraldine Knatz, the Port is celebrating its Centennial, commemorating the great strides made in its 100-year tradition of service as an international trade hub and maritime industry leader; and

Whereas from its tradition of handling fishing, lumber, and hides at the turn of the century to today's reputation for expeditiously moving a diverse, unprecedented global cargo mix, the Port of Los Angeles now looks toward its next 100 years with a legacy as an undisputed international leader in setting global standards for industry-leading environmental initiatives, terminal efficiency, and sustainable growth: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the 100th anniversary year of the founding of the Port of Los Angeles, which is the Nation's largest containerport;

(2) congratulates the Port of Los Angeles for its achievements as a leader throughout its history in implementing modern and innovative transportation and goods movements systems that are compatible with responsible environmental stewardship; and

(3) wishes the Port of Los Angeles continued success during its next 100 years as it strives to remain the Nation's largest and most successful conveyor of the Nation's and the world's commerce.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. RICHARDSON) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on House Resolution 822.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I'm proud to honor the Port of Los Angeles today with the passage of House Resolution 822, which recognizes the port's 100th anniversary. I was pleased to undertake this effort with my colleague from the Republican side of the aisle, Representative DANA ROHRBACHER.

The Port of Los Angeles enjoys a meaningful history, Madam Speaker, starting in the mid-19th century as a trading center for furs and hides serviced by stagecoaches and wagons and transforming over time into a distinction today as the Nation's largest container port.

In 1911, Rear Admiral John C. Walker helped push for greater development in the San Pedro Bay, and his efforts resulted in the first Federal breakwater.

In World War II, the Port of Los Angeles played a large role in our Nation's ability to respond to the shipbuilding challenge and to arm the U.S. Navy. This effort also quickly became a part of the Port of Los Angeles' prime economic activity.

More recently, in 2004 the port completed the 500-acre Pier 400 container complex as the largest single user container terminal in the world, which has been acclaimed as an engineering marvel.